

Chapter 14 Homeless People

Chapter 14 provides a profile of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among homeless people in Massachusetts based on two data sources and some additional literature. HIV and AIDS case data are presented to provide a demographic description of homeless people living with HIV/AIDS and to describe the ways in which they were exposed to HIV. However, the HIV and AIDS data are limited in their ability to fully describe the epidemic among homeless people as the data are not collected in a way that directly measures homelessness. The HIV and AIDS data for homeless people that follow include people for whom a homeless shelter was reported as their primary residence or for whom no primary residence information was provided at the time of diagnosis of HIV infection or AIDS. In addition to the HIV and AIDS case data, HIV Counseling and Testing data are presented to provide information about homeless people who were tested for HIV at state funded sites. For further information about HIV and AIDS prevention services for homeless people, consult "HIV/AIDS Prevention Practices in Massachusetts Shelters, 1999" by Russell K. Schutt, Ph.D., Denisa Popescu, and Deborah Milbauer, LCSW, MPH.

As of July 1, 2001, there were 207 people living with HIV/AIDS who were considered homeless at the time of diagnosis. The majority of people living with HIV/AIDS considered to be homeless are male (78%). Across race/ethnicity, Blacks comprise the largest proportion of people in this group at 39%; Whites and Hispanics account for an additional 35% and 25% of this population, respectively. Injection drug use (IDU) is the predominant reported mode of exposure among homeless people living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 63% of cases.

I. Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Prevalence – HIV and AIDS Case Data

- Homeless people account for <1% of reported people living with HIV infection/AIDS.
- From 1990 to 2000, the proportion of reported AIDS cases diagnosed among people identified as homeless was stable at 1% - 3%. (See Figure 14.1)

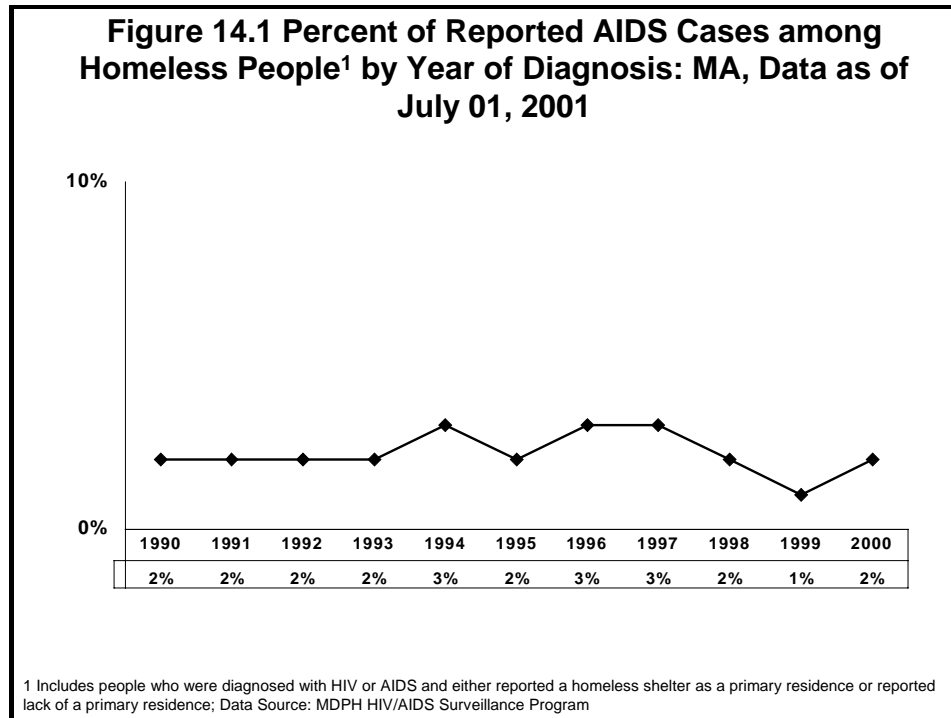


Table 14.1. Homeless People¹ Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Exposure Mode: MA*Data as of July 1, 2001*

	HIV		AIDS		HIV/AIDS	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	29	73%	132	79%	161	78%
Female	11	28%	35	21%	46	22%
By Race / Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	16	40%	56	34%	72	35%
Black (non-Hispanic)	10	25%	71	43%	81	39%
Hispanic	12	30%	39	23%	51	25%
Asian / Pacific Islander	1	-- ²	1	1%	2	1%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	0	-- ²	0	0%	0	0%
Unknown	1	-- ²	0	0%	1	<1%
By Exposure Mode:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male Sex with Male (MSM)	6	15%	19	11%	25	12%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	24	60%	107	64%	131	63%
MSM/IDU	4	10%	13	8%	17	8%
Heterosexual Sex						
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/IDU	1	-- ²	5	3%	6	3%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/ Person w/ HIV or AIDS	1	-- ²	9	5%	10	5%
◦ Female Sex w/ Bisexual Male	0	0%	1	1%	1	<1%
◦ Other Heterosexual Sex	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Sub-total of Heterosexual Sex	2	-- ²	15	9%	17	8%
Presumed Heterosexual	3	-- ²	7	4%	10	5%
Blood / Blood products	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Pediatric	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No Identified Risk	1	-- ²	6	4%	7	3%
Total	40		167		207	
¹ Includes people who were diagnosed with HIV infection or AIDS and either reported a homeless shelter as a primary residence or reported lack of a primary residence; HIV cases under age 13 are not included in totals. Pediatric HIV infection surveillance is performed through a separate surveillance system, the Pediatric Spectrum of Disease (PSD) Project. ² Percentages calculated from a numerator of 5 or less and a denominator of less than 100 are not presented. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

- The majority (78%) of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who are considered to have been homeless at the time of diagnosis are male. (See Figure 14.2)
- Whites comprise the largest racial group (40%) among people who are considered homeless and have HIV infection, and Blacks comprise the largest racial group

(43%) for people living with AIDS who were homeless at the time of diagnosis. (See Figure 14.3)

- IDU is reported as the primary mode of exposure for 63% of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who are considered to have been homeless at the time of diagnosis. (See Figure 14.4)

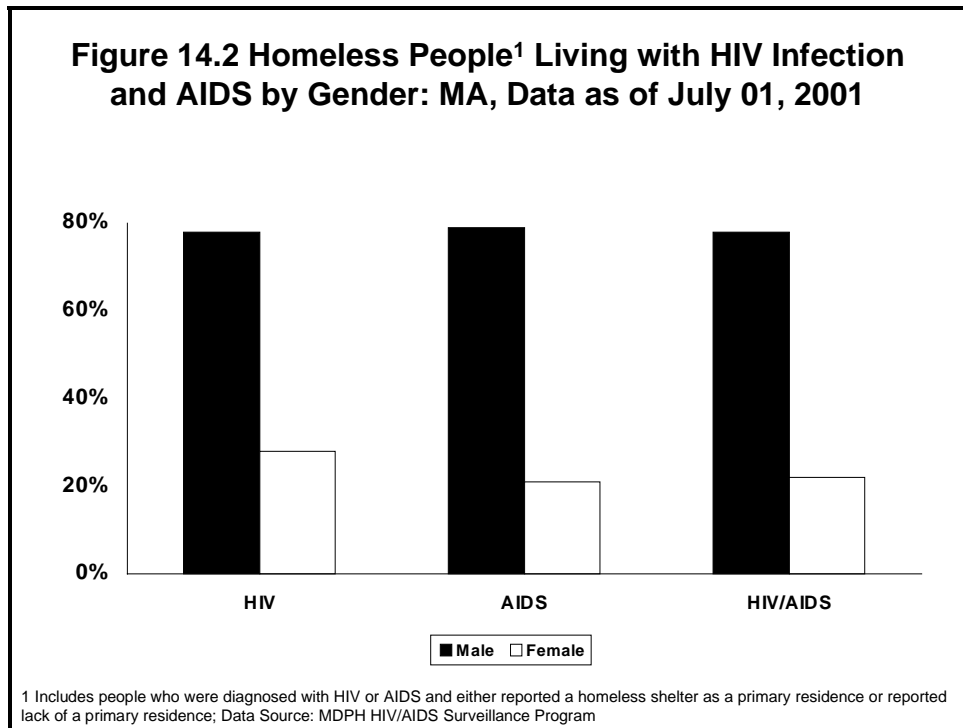
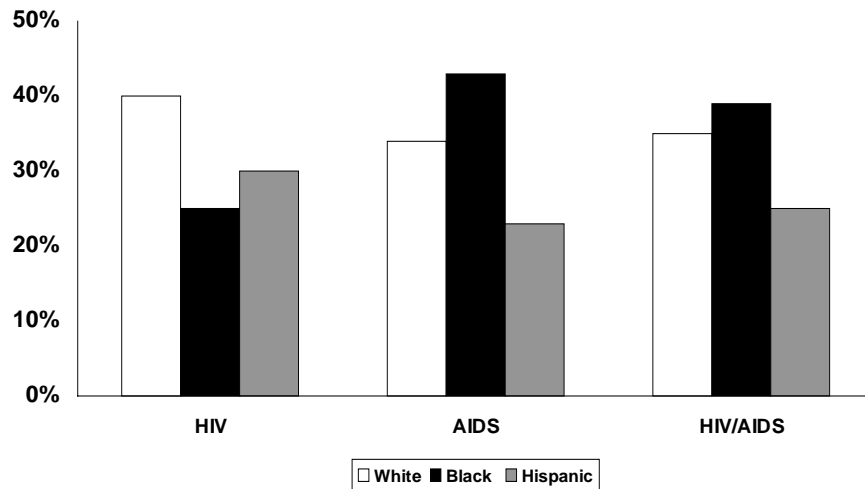
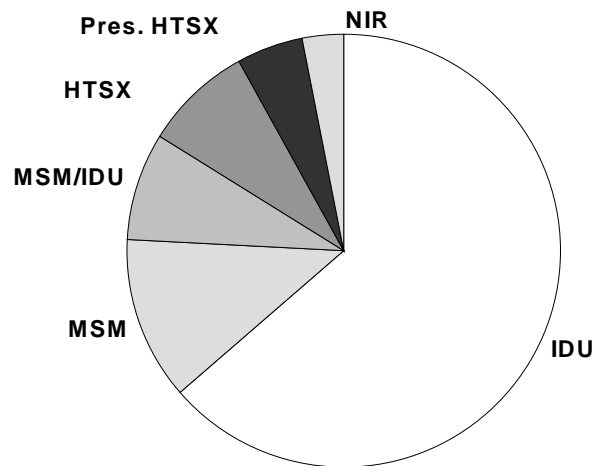


Figure 14.3 Homeless People¹ Living with HIV and AIDS by Race/Ethnicity: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



¹ Includes people who were diagnosed with HIV or AIDS and either reported a homeless shelter as a primary residence or reported lack of a primary residence; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Figure 14.4 Homeless People¹ Living with HIV/AIDS by Exposure Mode: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



¹ Includes people who were diagnosed with HIV or AIDS and either reported a homeless shelter as a primary residence or reported lack of a primary residence; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Table 14.2. Homeless People¹ Living with HIV Infection by Age at HIV Diagnosis and People Living with AIDS by Age at AIDS Diagnosis: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	PLWH/A ²	
By Age at HIV Diagnosis, in Years:	N	%
Under 13	-- ³	-- ³
13 to 19	1	-- ⁴
20 to 24	1	-- ⁴
25 to 29	7	18%
30 to 34	8	20%
35 to 39	14	35%
40 to 44	6	15%
45 to 49	2	-- ⁴
50+	1	-- ⁴
Total	40	
By Age at AIDS Diagnosis, in Years:	N	%
Under 13	0	0%
13 to 19	1	1%
20 to 24	6	4%
25 to 29	19	11%
30 to 34	40	24%
35 to 39	40	24%
40 to 44	30	18%
45 to 49	19	11%
50+	12	7%
Total	167	
¹ Includes people who were diagnosed with HIV infection or AIDS and either reported a homeless shelter as a primary residence or reported lack of a primary residence. ² PLWH/A = People Living with HIV infection and AIDS ³ HIV cases under age 13 are not included in totals. Pediatric HIV infection surveillance is performed through a separate surveillance system, the Pediatric Spectrum of Disease (PSD) Project. ⁴ Percentages calculated from a numerator of 5 or less and a denominator of less than 100 are not presented. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)		

- Nearly half of people living with AIDS who were diagnosed while they were considered to be homeless were diagnosed between the ages of 30 and 39.

Table 14.3. Homeless People¹ Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Current Age: MA <i>Data as of July 1, 2001</i>		
	PLWH/A ²	
By Current Age, in Years:	N	%
Under 13	0	0%
13 to 19	0	0%
20 to 24	1	<1%
25 to 29	5	2%
30 to 34	24	12%
35 to 39	51	25%
40 to 44	46	22%
45 to 49	40	19%
50+	40	19%
Total	207	
¹ Includes people who were diagnosed with HIV infection or AIDS and either reported a homeless shelter as a primary residence or reported lack of a primary residence? ² PLWH/A = People Living with HIV infection and AIDS ³ Pediatric HIV infection surveillance is performed through a separate surveillance system, the Pediatric Spectrum of Disease (PSD) Project. HIV cases under age 13 are not included in totals. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)		

- Of people living with HIV infection/AIDS considered homeless at the time of diagnoses, 75% are currently age 35 or older; 19% are currently age 50 or older.

II. Service Utilization - Counseling and Testing Data

Table 14.4 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests¹ by Gender and Age of Client, and Mode of Exposure for Homeless: MA, 2000 <i>Calendar Year 2000</i>			
By Gender of Client:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
Male	2,190	39	2%
Female	1,245	14	1%
By Race/Ethnicity of Client:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
White (not Hispanic)	1,775	15	1%
African American (not Hispanic)	671	18	3%
Latino	788	20	3%
Asian	19	0	0%
American Indian/Aleutian/Eskimo	29	0	0%
Haitian	11	0	0%
Brazilian	8	0	0%
Portuguese	33	0	0%
Cape Verdean	22	0	0%
Other	0	0	0%
Unknown	79	0	0%
1 Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table) Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau Counseling and Testing Program			

Table 14.4 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests¹ by Gender and Age of Client, and Mode of Exposure for Homeless: MA, 2000 (continued)

Calendar Year 2000

By Mode of Exposure:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
Male to Male Sex	126	7	6% ²
Male to Male Sex/Injection Drug Use	49	0	0%
Injection Drug use	1,172	15	1%
Heterosexual Sex	1,905	29	2%
Other	16	0	0%
Unknown	167	2	<1%
Total	3,435	53	

1 Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table)
 2 Caution should be used in interpreting percentages with both a small numerator and denominator..
 Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau Counseling and Testing Program

- In 2000, about twice as many homeless males (2,190) than females (1,245) received HIV tests at publicly funded Counseling and Testing (C&T) sites.
- The majority of those tested were White non-Hispanic (1,775) followed by Latinos (788) and African-Americans (671).
- More people in their late 30s (35-39) were tested for HIV than in any other category, and there were more homeless individuals testing positive in the 35 to 49 age categories.
- The majority of those tested reported heterosexual risk (1,905) as their mode of exposure followed by injection drug use (1,172).

Table 14.5 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests¹ by Year of Test for Clients Who are Homeless: MA, 1992-2000			
By Year of Test:	Total Tests	Total Positive Results	Percent Positive
1992	936	51	5%
1993	1,222	52	4%
1994	1,570	85	5%
1995	1,477	56	4%
1996	1,935	77	4%
1997	2,203	73	3%
1998	3,034	70	2%
1999	3,625	64	2%
2000	3,457	53	2%
1 Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table)			

- The number of homeless individuals who went to publicly funded C&T sites more than tripled from 1992 through 2000.
- The percent of homeless individuals testing positive decreased since 1992 and is currently at two percent.